

School Calendar, Storm Day and School Day/Calendar Length Information

Below are the statutes that will guide our school calendar days for the 2015-2017 school years.

SB 2031: Section 13 amends and reenacts NDCC 15.1-27-23 related to school closures due to weather or other emergencies: The section requires that:

1. The board of each school district shall include in the school calendar days that may be used for the rescheduling of instructional time lost as a result of severe weather or emergency related conditions.
2. a. The number of days required under subsection 1 must equal the average number of days per school year, as calculated using the five previous school years, during which the school district remained closed or provided less than a full day of instruction because of severe weather or other emergency conditions. *(This is a rolling 5 year average).*
b. The number of days determined under subdivision 'a' may be included within the calendar no earlier than the month of January

Description / Intent:

District leaders must create an average utilizing your total number of closures over the past 5 years due to weather or emergency related conditions. Example: Using the five previous school years, if a school district's number of school closure days equals 10 days, divide by 5 (five years) then the average equals 2 school calendar days for rescheduling of instructional time, which then must be included in your district calendar.

School districts should continue to identify at least two minimum days for school closure. If your district's five-year average number of school closure days equals more than the current two storm/emergency days, that is the number of storm/emergency days that you must include in your calendar for school closure days.

If your school calendar exceeds the required amount by at least 30 minutes or more per day, it is recommended that you place your storm/emergency days at the end of your school calendar.

NDCC: 15.1-27-23

If the number of days during which a public school or school district is closed or provides less than a full day of instruction exceeds the number of days determined under subdivision a of subsection 2, the public school or school district shall make every effort to reschedule the remaining classes, so that students receive at least the number of full instructional days required by section 15.1-06-04 or an equivalent period of instructional time, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction.

NDCC: 15.1-06

15.1-06-04. School calendar - Length.

1. A school district shall provide for a school calendar that includes:
 - a. At least one hundred seventy-five days of instruction;
 - b. Three holidays, as selected by the board in consultation with district teachers from the list provided for in subdivisions b through j of subsection 1 of section 15.1-06-02;
 - c. No more than two days for:
 - i. Parent-teacher conferences; or
 - ii. Compensatory time for parent-teacher conferences held outside of regular school hours; and

- d. At least two days of professional development.
- 2. A day of professional development must consist of:
 - i. Six hours of professional development, exclusive of meals and other breaks, conducted within a single day;
 - ii. Six hours of cumulative professional development conducted under the auspices of a professional learning community; or
 - iii. Two four-hour periods of professional development, exclusive of meals and other breaks, conducted over two days.
- b. If a school district offers a four-hour period of professional development, as permitted in this subsection, the school district may schedule instruction during other available hours on that same day and be credited with providing one-half day of instruction to students. This subdivision does not apply unless the one-half day of instruction equals at least one-half of the time required for a full day of instruction, as defined in this section.
- 3. If because of weather a school must dismiss before completing a full day of instruction, the school is responsible for making up only those hours and portions of an hour between the time of early dismissal and the conclusion of a full day of classroom instruction.
- 4. For purposes of this section, a full day of instruction consists of:
 - a. At least **five and one-half hours for kindergarten and elementary students**, during which time
 - b. the students are required to be in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction; and
 - c. At least **six hours for high school students**, during which time the students are required to be in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction.

Description / Intent:

What does this mean in practice? If for the entire calendar year the school operates on a calendar that provides AT LEAST 30 minutes or more of instructional time for students each day than is required by state law at the elementary (5.5 hrs.) and secondary level (6 hrs.), AND your district due to weather or related emergency is required to start late, end the school day early, or cancel the school day, that time missed as required by law a portion of that time can be made up in 30 minute increments in subsequent calendar days. The total amount of time allowed, that does not have to be made up if districts qualify for a grace day, is ONE academic day (6 hours).

You must still keep your rolling 5 year average of snow days on the calendar (or a minimum of 2 days, whichever is greater).

If because of weather a school must dismiss before completing a full day of instruction, the district must make every reasonable effort to make up the missed instructional time. This can be done in the following ways:

1. *Qualifying districts may use one allowed academic day (grace day). A qualifying district is one that schedules school days that are at least 30 minutes longer than required by law.*
2. *Schedule instructional days on the designated snow days included in the school calendar.*
3. *Make up missed instructional time by lengthening the school day by 30 minutes per day and/or scheduling an instructional day on Saturday.*

Once every reasonable effort has been made to make up the missed instructional time, the district may petition the state superintendent of public instruction to forgive those additional days/hours.

For any questions regarding this information, please contact Gail Schauer at gschauer@nd.gov or (701) 328-2755.